

The World Struggles for Gold and Silver.

A History of the Precious Metals, from the Earliest Times to the Present. By Alexander Del Mar, M. E. Second edition revised. 488 pp. Cambridge Encyclopedia Company.

Mr. Alexander Del Mar is a man of set ideas; he is also an indefatigable worker, a political economist of the first order, a brilliant numismatist, and a faithful student of history. Knowing exactly what he wants to prove and possessing to the tips of his fingers the facts connected with his subject, his narrative is clear, concise, and to the point, not to say elegant and attractive. The title of his work furnishes also a palpable proof of the inborn modesty of the savant, of the "erudite." This "History of Precious Metals" was begun in 1858, published in London in 1880, and attracted a good deal of deserved attention. This second edition gives to the public an up-to-date history, full of documentary evidence of indisputable value for the solution of the money question, which "will have to be debated upon much higher grounds than any which have hitherto been advanced in the contention." "That is to say, it will have to be argued not by appeals to ignorance and passion, but by appeals to religion and patriotism, to fraternity and equity."

Mr. Del Mar gives successively the history of precious metals from the remotest times in all quarters of the globe. This history is one of blood, slavery, and plunder, and the author seems to be amply justified in asserting that the "desire for the precious metals, rather than geographical researches or military conquest, is the principal motive which has led to the dominion of the earth by civilized races." The facts are substantially related in the chapters on "Plunder of Europe by the Romans," "Plunder of Africa," "Plunder of Asia," "Plunder of India," and "Plunder of China," ending with the looting by the allied armies commanded by Count von Waldersee. The revelations on the Transvaal are particularly interesting. From a carefully guarded report of the chamber of mines (a British organization) for 1896, is gathered evidence to show that "the Transvaal mines (most-

ly owned by British capitalists) have been worked from first to last by natives who were entrapped and forced into them against their will; that they were bought from contractors at so much per man, bound, strapped, made drunk with rotten liquor, and thrust naked into pits which avarice has dug and hypocrisy has covered over."

Throughout his book Mr. Del Mar contends that the precious metals cost more to produce than they are worth. He shows in support of his contention that in the Transvaal mines, for instance, the salary of the free miner averages only \$1.50 per diem, concluding that "it is quite evident that without forced labor, without slavery, and without working the mills on the Sabbath, the industry could not have been made to pay."

Referring to the coinage of precious metals as money, Mr. Del Mar believes that there is an evolution of money far more important than that of its substance, the growth from a static to dynamical mechanism, and the concomitant growth in the methods of exchange. In other words, a dollar now performs, in the same interval of time, several times the amount of work in facilitating exchanges that it was previously capable of performing; so that Time, whose influence upon Price was until recently imperceptible, now clearly and unmistakably enters into its composition. In the opinion of the author, "the government instead of individuals should retain control of the monetary measure; otherwise there can be no real religion, no real liberty, no real national life. The basis of national life is political equality. There can be no equality so long as an unjust measure continues to rob the many for the benefit of the few." The work is replete with statistics carefully revised. —Literary Digest.

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Some Rhythmical Gymnastics.

There is a familiar jingle written by Thackeray which runs:
If I were a cassowary
On the plains of Timbuctoo,
I would eat a missionary,
Hat and gown and hymn book too.
Other famous writers beside Thackeray have busied themselves discovering rimes for unusual and out-of-the-way words. A correspondent of the New York Commercial Advertiser (October 2) illustrates their efforts by some amusing examples. He reminds us that Butler, in "Hudibras," was guilty of the following:
And pulpit, drum ecclesiastic,
Was beat with first instead of a stick.
Also,
And the philosopher
Read Alexander Ross over.
He tells, too, how Byron sings of "continent" and "one tenant," of "big-amy" and "twig am I," and he remembers that Browning linked "can know" with "piano." He proceeds to cite other illustrations as follows:
"Henry J. Childe of 'Our Boys' fame was incorrigible. The yachtsman's woes contained the following:
The crew began to quarrel and their language was immoral,
And they said of me, we don't want that there cove aboard.
We were having tea and coffee, sir, when Bosh, the second officer, Grabbed me by my pantaloons and pitched me overboard."
"Another skit he speaks of 'a clever anaconda who's been reading D. Deronda,' and a frisky hippopotamus (great Jamrach kindly got him us). He reveled in rare rimes.
"Mr. Anstey is good at it, also. In his 'Burglar Bill' he has a poem in which a child empties an automatic machine by means of a penny tied to a string.
The fraud was perceived, but the child was relieved,

COFFEE COMPLEXION

Many Ladies Have Poor Complexions From Coffee

"Coffee caused dark colored blotches on my face and body. I had been drinking it for a long while and these blotches gradually appeared, until finally they became permanent and were about as dark as coffee itself.
I formerly had as fine a complexion as one could ask for.

When I became convinced that coffee was the cause of my trouble, I changed and took to using Postum Cereal Food Coffee, and as I made it well, according to directions, I liked it very much, and have since that time used it entirely in place of coffee.
I am thankful to say I am not nervous any more, as I was when I was drinking coffee, and my complexion is now as fair and good as it was years ago. It is very plain that the coffee caused the trouble. Please omit my name from public print." Mrs. —, 2081 Ogden Ave., Chicago, Ill.
The name of this lady can be given by the Postum Cereal Co., Ltd., Battle Creek, Mich.

Most bad complexions are caused by some disturbance of the stomach and coffee is the greatest disturber of digestion known. Almost any woman can have a fair complexion if she will leave off coffee and use Postum Food Coffee and nutritious, healthy food in proper quantity. The food coffee furnishes certain parts of the natural grains from the field that nature uses to rebuild the nervous system and when that is in good condition, one can depend upon a good complexion as well as a general healthy condition of the body.

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Lincoln, Nebraska.

Having never intended to cadge his treat,
But B-32 said 'I'd recommend you
To reserve your remarks for the
magistreat.'
"Gilbert comes in with:
I'm not a common mountebank,
I've money in the county bank.
"A workingman sees a vision which
promises to reform him; he remarks:
To work in heavy boots I comes.
Will shoes henceforward decorate
My little toddle-tootsicums?
"In 'The Pirates of Penzance' we find
the following:
In short, when I've a smattering of
elemental strategy,
You'll say a better major-general has
never sat a gee.
—Literary Digest.

Points About People

F. W. Cunningham of Richmond, Va., estimates that he has sung at 10,000 funerals.

Anton Dvorak, the famous musician, has been made a member of the Austrian house of lords.

Cassius M. Clay of Kentucky is preparing his autobiography. He is upwards of ninety years of age.

Pierre Loti, whose real name is Vlaud, is seriously ill at Chifu. He is

a captain in the French navy.

The Princess Louise has opened a hospital for invalid soldiers. It is located on her husband's estate.

The czar of Russia is a confirmed cigarette smoker. He rolls his own cigarettes and uses tobacco especially imported from Syria.

Dr. Howard, entomologist of the department of agriculture, estimates that the annual damage done to crops by insects is \$300,000,000.

President John H. McCracken of Westminster college, Fulton, Mo., is said to be the youngest college president in the world. He is 25 years old.

The Rothschilds have just purchased the largest copper mine in Mexico, paying \$2,000,000 for it. The mine furnishes employment to a large number of men. All told the Rothschilds now employ 27,000 men in their various copper mines.

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